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Supplement

Sub-Saharan Africa

French President Chirac's West African Tour

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Sub-Saharan Africa

SUPPLEMENT

French President Chirac's West African Tour

FBIS-AFR-95-142-S

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Morocco

Chirac Begins Tour, Announces 'Exceptional Subsidy'

LD2007151595 *Paris Radio France International*
in French 1230 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jacques Chirac started his African tour with a first stop—a rather spectacular one—in Morocco. [passage omitted]

Christophe Boisbouvier, you are our special correspondent. The highlight of this official visit this morning was the announcement of the allocation of an exceptional subsidy to Rabat:

[Boisbouvier] That's right. One must say that this year is exceptional because Morocco is suffering from severe drought—the drought of the century, even, according to the Moroccan agriculture minister. The drought is all the harder since it started early in the year, during the sowing season.

France will be making an exceptional effort this year: it is going to double its subsidies to Morocco by allocating 2.15 billion francs, including 1.5 billion specifically to fight the drought. This means a subsidy toward the purchase of 1 million tonnes of cereals, the release of funds for digging wells and the construction of water ducts.

Overall, that is the financial effort proposed by France. It is a solidarity effort that is a concrete expression of the special relationship between France and Morocco. France is the first economic and commercial partner of Morocco, it is its first purveyor, and its first client. It intends to maintain this position through this subsidy as well as private and public investments. Among other things, a subway system is scheduled to be built in Casablanca over the next few years with the help of France. [passage omitted; Chirac visited Casablanca mosque this morning; Chirac and King Hassan currently having talks]

Filali, Chirac Hold Working Session

LD2007223395 *Rabat RTM Television Network*
in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jacques Chirac, the president of the French Republic, received Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, at his place of residence in Rabat today. He held an enlarged working session with him which was attended on the Moroccan side by Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of finance and foreign investments, Hassan Abou Ayoub, minister of agriculture and agricultural investment, Abderrahmane Saidi, minister of privatization delegated to the prime minister for state installations, and

Mohamed Berrada, the Moroccan ambassador in Paris. On the French side it was attended by Alain Madelin, French minister of economy and finance, and the French ambassador in Rabat, Mr. De Cognac.

France Gives More Aid to Water Projects

LD1907133295 *Rabat MAP in English*
1238 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul. 19 (MAP) — Morocco and France signed a convention under which the French Development Fund (CFD) grants the kingdom 160 million French francs to finance water projects in northern Morocco.

The convention was signed Tuesday here by the general director of the Moroccan National Office of Drinking Water (ONEP) and a CFD official.

The loan is meant to consolidate the drinking water supply network in al-Hoceima (northern Morocco) and supply several regions in the Rif mountains with drinking water. It is also meant to allow for the laying of regional adducts to supply the neighboring regions of Nador, Berkane, Oujda and Jerada with drinking water.

This is the fourth loan CFD grants the ONEP part of the emergency program for the development of northern regions in Morocco. The program aims at promoting economic activities and make for the lack in infrastructures in these regions.

CFD had granted last week three loans totalling 435 million francs to finance several agriculture projects in Morocco, mainly irrigation in rural areas.

France Earmarks Loans for Science, Culture

LD1907124995 *Rabat MAP in English*
1234 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul. 19 (MAP) — Some 86 million dollars in loans were earmarked for Moroccan-French cultural and scientific cooperation for 1995.

The loans will cover almost all socio-economic sectors. Moroccan-French scientific and technical cooperation concerns training, agriculture, public administration, higher education and public health.

Chirac Wants to 'Step Up' Bilateral Trade

BR2007125595 *Paris LES ECHOS in French*
20 Jul 95 p 9

[Report by Stephane Dupont: "Jacques Chirac Wants to Step Up Franco-Moroccan Trade Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jacques Chirac arrived in Rabat yesterday evening [19 July] on a two-day offi-

cial visit. Chirac intends to make the most of this trip to give a new impetus to Franco-Moroccan trade co-operation. The Paris-Rabat diplomatic rapprochement which Chirac wants to promote after years of relatively chilly relations should, according to Chirac, also benefit French companies. Although France remains by far Morocco's major trade partner, the presence of French companies in this increasingly competitive market has been eroding slightly. [passage omitted]

King Hassan on French Relations, Bosnia

LD2007233695 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2125 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Speech by Moroccan King Hassan II at a banquet in honor of visiting French President Jacques Chirac, at the Royal Palace in Rabat — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise be to God and prayers and peace be upon our master the messenger of God, his family, and companions. Your Excellency the President of the French Republic and our good friend: Morocco is not a strange country to you, as you have visited it a number of times on different occasions. We received you each time with the warmth with which those of our friends who are worthy of appreciation and esteem are usually received. The French people recently elected you to the presidency of the Republic and accorded you the honor of taking up this great task that you are qualified to carry out by virtue of your numerous qualities as a statesman. [passage omitted]

At the present time, Morocco is at a difficult turning point in its relations with Europe, but we are fully aware that every alliance requires solutions of mutual compromise. Based on this, Morocco has offered as much as possible and has taken the utmost steps towards a rapprochement to insure mutual interests.

Yet some elements of the other side unfortunately remain rigid, unaware of what is imposed by geographical proximity and our aspirations for economic and social integration. But these difficulties, however great, will not divert us from what we resolved to do at the beginning. Viewing the prospects for the future and in order to overcome the current events that we were experiencing, more than 20 years ago we set out to lodge our nomination to be a full member of the European Union. [passage omitted]

We are renewing our request to join the EU to you, Your Excellency, President of the Republic and our good friend, in the belief that you fully understand and are able to find the means that will guarantee that it is accepted.

Your Excellency ... President, and our great friend, the war which has been destroying former Yugoslavia for more than three years constitutes a tragedy which is neither comprehensible nor acceptable in our age. It is a challenge with which a band of people looking back to an non-recurring period of time slaps the face of the world and particularly the face of the United Nations.

The Islamic world truly appreciates your initiative to find a solution to this terrifying conflict. You were the impetus for the creation of the Rapid Reaction Force and you were the first, or rather the only person, who said that this force should have the power to intervene anytime and anywhere legitimate rights are being trodden upon so that its existence has a meaning.

Whatever the result might be, your initiative will remain written in the record of your good deeds.

Your Excellency the President, and our great friend, the way that still awaits you is long and it is not free of obstacles, but we know that, due to your unbending determination, you will be able to transcend these obstacles and overcome all the difficulties which may confront you. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire

Chirac To Hold 'Mini-Summit' With 6 Heads of State

AB2107150595 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French
1245 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The national news is dominated by the Jacques Chirac's visit. The French head of state, Jacques Chirac, arrived in Yamoussoukro a short while ago on his way from Morocco, the first leg of his African tour which will take him to Gabon and Senegal after Cote d'Ivoire. For the highlights of the French leader's visit to the country, Alain Coulibaly, you have the details.

[Coulibaly] Yes, we must point out right away — as we were told by our correspondents in Yamoussoukro who are covering the French president's visit to Cote d'Ivoire — we must specify that Jacques Chirac will not make any statements. There will be no arrival statement, as we have just noticed, and no departure statement. He will simply hold a news conference with about 70 French journalists so don't expect any statements by the French president if what were are told is strictly followed. We must say though that journalists are daring, and it is not totally ruled out for us to have some statements by the French president.

Touching on his program, we must say that the French president will certainly — this is certain — hold talks

with President Henri Konan Bedie. He will also hold talks with the presidents of the Entente Council. The summit formula was not accepted and, according to our special correspondents, he will have a 20-minute round of talks with the leaders of the Entente Council, namely the presidents of Togo, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Benin.

Another major engagement of the French president during his visit to our country will be the laying of a wreath on the tombstone of the illustrious late President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. President Jacques Chirac will meet President Felix Houphouet-Boigny's family. So, these are the highlights of Chirac's visit which, we must note, is very brief since the president of the Republic of France will take leave of Ivorians very early tomorrow morning — at 0730 GMT — for Libreville. From Libreville, he will go to Dakar, Senegal.

Summit Seen as 'Private Bilateral Talks'

AB2107224495 Ouagadougou Radiodiffusion
Nationale du Burkina Radio in French
1900 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The head of state, President Blaise Compaore, returned from Yamoussoukro, the Ivorian political capital today. In Yamoussoukro, President Compaore and four of his peers met and held talks with French President Jacques Chirac, who is on a visit to Cote d'Ivoire. Presidents Blaise Compaore, Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo, Mahamane Ousmane of Niger, Nicephore Soglo of Benin, Henri Konan Bedie of Cote d'Ivoire, and Jacques Chirac laid a wreath on the tomb of the first president of Cote d'Ivoire, Felix Houphouet-Boigny before attending a Luncheon offered in their honor. The agenda of the meeting between Jacques Chirac and the heads of the state of the Entente Council was not that of a mini-summit but just private bilateral talks. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Prevented From Greeting Chirac

AB2407133895 Abidjan LE REPUBLICAIN IVORIEN
in French 24 July p7

[Article by Sindou Meite: "Why Djeny Kobina Was Prevented From Greeting Chirac"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The secretary general of the Rally of the Republicans [RDR], Djeny Kobina, went to Yamoussoukro on 20 July, a day before Jacques Chirac's arrival, to welcome the French head of state as acting chairman of the Republican Front. The Republican Front chairman, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, is out of the country. Mr. Kobina went to Yamoussoukro to give his respects to President Chirac on behalf of the main Ivorian opposition parties. [passage omitted] But

after greeting the Ivorian president, his cabinet, the government, representatives of foreign chancelleries, the elected personalities of the Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire-African Rally, and the traditional chiefs, there was a big surprise! The protocol led Mr. Chirac another way without any apparent reason. No incident or security threat justified the move. Among those who were prevented from shaking hands with President Jacques Chirac, was Djeny Kobina, the only representative of the opposition in Yamoussoukro. [passage omitted]

This attitude adopted by President Bedie's protocol service can be explained by the rumors circulating to justify the presence of the leader of one of the main opposition parties in Yamoussoukro. According to these rumors, Mr. Kobina wanted to personally hand over the letter he wrote and that was published in three daily newspapers on 21 July. In consequence, President Bedie wanted to prevent Mr. Kobina from handing over the document to French President Chirac and draw his attention to the deep aspirations of the people of Cote d'Ivoire for a change in the country and ask for the support of France to achieve this change. Finally, Mr. Bedie wanted to show his French guest that, like his predecessor the late President Houphouet-Boigny, he was completely in control of the power. And that because of this fact, he was the best guarantor of French interests for years to come. Mr. Bedie could not tolerate discordant voices in such a context.

This is no secret. Mr. Bedie's power is shaky and ready to crumble. That is why he is making every effort to show that the Ivorian opposition is not important and that Cote d'Ivoire is a sea of tranquility, without any riddles, a country where consensus is the rule. After an electoral code that legalizes electoral fraud, Mr. Bedie is now using the last lifeboat on which he is counting to safeguard his power: France.

But how can one understand why the French delegation has marginalized the Ivorian opposition whereas Chirac had received the Moroccan opposition at least three times in Rabat? Due to his busy agenda Djeny Kobina, did not give a news conference on the issue. If he had, he would have informed the public on this anachronism. Indeed, the RDR secretary general left Abidjan for Washington on 21 July to meet Alassane Dramane Ouattara. He will hand over a copy of the RDR's congress proceedings, in which the party activists are asking Mr. Ouattara to be their presidential candidate. Things are becoming more precise now. And this despite France's ambiguous attitude.

Opposition Front Message to Chirac

AB2207140595 Abidjan LE REPUBLICAIN in French
21-23 Jul 95 p 5

[Letter from the Republican Front to visiting French President Jacques Chirac on 18 July—first paragraph LE REPUBLICAIN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Ivorian opposition opted for the path of wisdom and nonviolence in getting its message across to Jacques Chirac, the French head of state on a pilgrimage to Yamoussoukro. In the absence of Laurent Gbagbo, leader of the Ivorian Popular Front [FPI], Djeny Kobina, secretary general of the Rally of Republicans [RDR], makes a passionate appeal here to Cote d'Ivoire's guest on behalf of the Republican Front [FR]. Below is the full text of Djeny Kobina's statement:**

The Republican Front,
Abidjan.

18 July 1995. Mr. President of the Republic of France. Mr. President, The coalition of opposition parties under the umbrella of the FR gladly congratulates you on your brilliant election to the office of president of the Republic of France, and bids you welcome to **Ivorian territory.** We followed your election campaign with great attention and keen interest and were fascinated by the theme you developed on the occasion: change. Your policy since your arrival at the Elysee greatly emphasizes that theme. We rejoice for France about that, and for our country because the bonds that bind our two countries — bonds established by history, language, and a convergence of interests — are self-evident.

As the century draws to a close, Cote d'Ivoire, as a country that follows the French example, also aspires to change after three decades marked by the seal of the one-party system, which showed its limitations from both the political and economic standpoints. In our opinion, this change necessarily calls today for a broader democratic opening up. The FR is determined to contribute to this without ulterior motives and in a straightforward manner, and wants to see our country totally committed to the process, particularly in the elections due to take place in a few months.

These elections do not hold out any healthy signs. They will, indeed, be held under the same conditions as in the past, worsened by a new electoral code whose shortcomings we pointed out to Mr. Dutheil de la Rochere, your ambassador in Abidjan, at an audience he kindly granted us last April.

On that occasion, we remarked to the ambassador that the tragedies that have hit several African countries are

mostly linked to rigged elections and that it was in the interest of Cote d'Ivoire as the beacon in the West African subregion to set the example by organizing free and fair elections. To this end, we suggested that the electoral code, over which hangs so much uncertainty, be dropped and a national electoral commission be set up to organize the elections as has been done with so much success in many countries of the subregion.

This is the stage we have reached as you set foot, for the first time since your election, on our country's soil. Surely, we know that France has made it its duty to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, especially friendly ones. However, this tour which you have called a pilgrimage shows that you are not indifferent to whatever happens in this country.

This is why we can afford to hope that you will use your influence to help our country chart a course on the difficult path to democracy. Our interests, which have always been interdependent, demand that you do so.

We wish you a happy stay in Cote d'Ivoire. [Signed] Djeny Kobina, RDR secretary general; for the interim president, FR.

Ivoirian Minister Views French Relations

LD2207124495 Paris Radio France International
in French 1830 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our guest is Ivorian Foreign Minister Amara Essy. Christophe Boishbouvier, our special correspondent in Yamoussoukro, asked him first what significance he sees, as an Ivorian, in the visit by President Chirac to that city:

[Begin recording] [Essy] I believe first of all that it is a visit down memory lane. This is very important. And I think that for us Africans, friendship and social instinct are very important things. The fact that President Chirac has come to Cote d'Ivoire just a few weeks after his election as president in fact proves that he loves Africa and I think that the most important thing in all this is that France is the only country today which has an Africa policy. And I think this can be taken this way or that way, but it has an Africa policy.

France has always defended Africa, whether in Halifax or in Cannes and I think that for us it is very important that France is present here today.

[Boishbouvier] Can we talk about a revival in Franco-African relations after the Mitterrand era?

[Essy] A revival? I think one has to analyze the situation. I think that today everyone has a job to do. We know that we must rely on ourselves today. We can see what is going on everywhere today, in the United States

and France. The measures taken in France suggest that we must make an effort and I think we have understood this. We are making the necessary efforts at the national level and I think France is ready to help in a significant way.

[Boisbouvier] Do you expect the talks to be centered on economic issues today?

[Essy] Listen, when heads of state meet, they talk about everything. What is certain is that they will discuss economic issues because the world's development today is government by the economy.

[Boisbouvier] Integration perhaps?

[Essy] Yes, I think integration is very important. I think the European Union is an example for us. We have already [word indistinct] at the sub-regional level, so we have some degree of integration. Now we need extra means to build the whole structure. I think France can play a significant role in the integration of the sub-region.

[Boisbouvier] What do you think of this inter-African conflict prevention force which France wants to establish. Do you think that Chirac's visit can speed up progress in this matter?

[Essy] I think we have to examine what has been done so far, because a lot of thinking has been done for a while now both within the OAU and the sub-region. President Eyadema was charged with the task of examining this issue and I think he has done that but we still do not have all the results of this exercise. What is certain is that everybody thinks that we must have this force. What would be its structure? Will it be an independent force or would each country earmark and train troops to be used when the need arises? I think this is what we are going to discuss. [Passage omitted: continuity in French-African relations despite change of leadership] [end recording]

French President Gives Interview

LD2107222395 Paris Radio France International
in French 2130 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After a 36-hour visit to Morocco, French President Jacques Chirac today began his first tour of western Africa in Yamassoukro, in Cote d'Ivoire. It was in a real mood of popular jubilation that the French president arrived just now in Yamassoukro, the birth place of Former President Houphouet Boigny, where he was welcomed by his Ivorean counterpart, Henri Konan Bedie. Afterward, the French head of state held discussions with four African heads of state who had come to meet him, the presidents of the other countries of the Entente Council: Benin, Burkina Faso,

Niger, and Togo. Jacques Chirac explained why he had chosen to begin his tour of western Africa in Yamassoukro:

[Begin Chirac recording] I wanted to touch African soil south of the Sahara, first of all in the village of President Houphouet Boigny. You all know in what great esteem and respectful affection I held President Houphouet Boigny and all the friendship I had for him. He was a very great humanist in every respect; he was a great Ivorean, but also a very great African and a very great Frenchman. This morning, together with the four other presidents and with President Bedie, I went to lay a wreath on the tomb of President Houphouet Boigny. I felt a real emotion, which made me understand even better perhaps how much, at the time when I met him and when I spoke to him for many hours, the relations between France and Cote d'Ivoire were something particular, something strong, something emotional, and were probably not comparable to any others. [end recording]

That was French President Jacques Chirac who will go to Gabon tomorrow, then to Senegal on Sunday.

CFA Franc Devaluation 'Widely Discussed'

AB2207150895 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaîne
Nationale-Une Network in French
1230 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] French President Jacques Chirac arrived in Libreville at noon today. This is the third leg of his African visit. He was coming from Cote d'Ivoire where he spent a very busy day yesterday. His first move, after the rousing welcome from Ivorians at the Yamoussoukro International Airport on his way to the distinguished guest house, was to lay a wreath on the tomb of late President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. He was accompanied by the heads of state of the Entente Council. Then, President Chirac held talks with all of them including President Henri Konan Bedie.

Later, President Chirac visited a coffee and cocoa plantation in a neighboring village and helped himself to some palm wine. Then, he received the French community residing on Ivorian soil.

With the Entente Council heads of state, President Jacques Chirac discussed specific issues concerning their countries but it can be said that issues such as the impact of the devaluation of the CFA franc and regional integration, were widely discussed.

Paper: Visit Proves 'Excellent Relations'

AB2107203095 *Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN*
in French 21 Jul 95 p 9

[Article by Honorine Yaoua Kouman: "Cote d'Ivoire-France: Continuity"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The French head of state, President Jacques Chirac, has chosen to stay in Yamoussoukro, our political capital, from 21 to 22 July. This first visit to Cote d'Ivoire by Jacques Chirac since his coming to power on 7 May, is proof of the excellent relations existing between France and our country.

Indeed, France and Cote d'Ivoire have always entertained special ties. These special bilateral relations will be pursued by President Konan Bedie. He confirmed this in an interview with the French daily newspaper LE FIGARO in July 1994 during a visit to France. "I want to resume the longstanding friendship that exists between the French and Ivorian peoples. I also want to reactivate all the bonds of fruitful cooperation that have always existed between the two countries. [passage omitted]

It should be recalled that on the economic level, relations between Cote d'Ivoire are excellent. As proof, the financial aid granted annually by France to Cote d'Ivoire amounts to about 200 billion CFA francs. That is an large sum of money.

It should finally be recalled that beyond the relations between France and Cote d'Ivoire, President Jacques Chirac himself loves our country and her people deeply. We remember that on 7 February 1994, he did not hesitate for an instant to fully participate in the funeral of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny — his spiritual father — in Yamoussoukro. Before that, he had already made several visits to Cote d'Ivoire, the most symbolic of them being that of 1986. The reason was that during the French legislative elections in March 1986, he promised that if he were elected prime minister, his first visit would be to Cote d'Ivoire; a promise he kept a few days later on 12 April when he came to Yamoussoukro, the native village of President Bedie's predecessor. It is a village that Mr. Chirac loves. [passage omitted]

President Chirac, who had great admiration for President Houphouet-Boigny, said among other things that "President Houphouet-Boigny is one of the heads of this world who brought more wisdom and humanity to the contemporary period of our history." As we can see, a beautiful love story exists between French President Jacques Chirac and Cote d'Ivoire.

Gabon**Chirac Arrives for 'French Zone' Mini-Summit**

LD2207122695 *Paris France-Inter Radio Network*
in French 1200 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jacques Chirac has arrived in Libreville, the third leg of his African tour. He was welcomed by Gabonese President Omar Bongo.

The French president will hold private talks with President Bongo. Then he will meet the heads of state of the French zone countries in a mini-summit.

He will leave Libreville early this evening for Dakar, the last stage of his five-day African tour.

6 Central African Leaders To Attend

AB2207170895 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French*
1215 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The French Head of State Jacques Chirac arrived in Libreville a little over an hour ago on the third leg of his African tour that had already taken him to Morocco and Cote d'Ivoire. The French president was welcomed upon arrival by his Gabonese counterpart, President Omar Bongo. In addition to his talks with the Gabonese president, Jacques Chirac will hold discussions with the other heads of state of the subregion. The leaders of the member states of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa arrived in Libreville yesterday. They are Pascal Lissouba of Congo, Ange Felix Patasse of Central African Republic, Idriss Deby of Chad, Paul Biya of Cameroon, and Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea. One of the highlights of the French head of state's visit to Gabon will undoubtedly be the minisummit that will be attended by the six leaders of the Central African states. [passage omitted]

Cameroon President Biya on Debt Problem

LD2207200995 *Paris Radio France International*
in French 1830 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jacques Chirac met President Paul Biya of Cameroon. The two raised mainly economic problems, including Douala's debt. President Paul Biya spoke to Jean-Karim Fall:

[Begin Biya recording] First, I must say that relations between France and Cameroon are excellent, and we raised problems connected with the economic crisis, in particular the debt problem. We spoke of the possibility of looking at new ways of approaching this debt problem, an approach that will link in a way the development to [words indistinct] of repayments. In

other words, we are looking for original formulae and approaches [words indistinct] today (?for us to make repayments), but we can also obtain a reshcheduling or cancellation of the debt, but there is an approach that could include development and satisfy the two sides, but although the idea is making headway it is not yet exactly defined. [end recording]

The Cameroon president announced that municipal elections will be held in his country: They will be transparent and will be held before the end of the year.

Chad's Deby on Cooperation With France

AB2307205195 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A mini-summit was held in Libreville yesterday between heads of state of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC] and French President Jacques Chirac, who was in the Gabonese capital as part of his African tour. The main issues discussed were debt problems and problems linked with the CFA franc devaluation.

Gabonese President Omar Bongo, Cameroonian President Paul Biya, Central African President Ange-Felix Patasse, Congolese President Pascal Lissouba, Equatorial Guinean President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, and Chadian President Idriss Deby attended the mini-summit. They reiterated their call to President Chirac for a substantial increase in development aid. They appealed for new debt rescheduling, debt cancellations, or changing of debts into other forms of development aid.

This morning, Chadian President Colonel Idriss Deby gave an exclusive interview to Africa No. 1 correspondent Jean-Claude Franck Medome and assessed the state of cooperation between France and Chad. He recalled that there is an urgent need for central African states to intensify their cooperation.

[Begin recording] [Deby] Cooperation between France and Chad is doing extremely well for several reasons. You know, France is by far our principal development partner. France cooperates with us in such varied sectors as education, health, and Army restructuring. We had the opportunity to assess the situation with President Chirac, who perfectly understands our difficulties and problems. That said, we must acknowledge and stress the fact that France alone cannot bear the entire responsibility. As I often say, Africans, and Chadians in particular, must make the required efforts.

[Medome] Mr. President, do the various central African states intend to intensify their cooperation?

[Deby] Yes, that goes without saying. Central Africa is a geographic as well as a historic entity. We created subregional organizations together on those bases to achieve integration within Central Africa. The organizations are now operational. Much effort has been made, but we have a long way to go yet. We cannot achieve all our goals overnight. We need to be patient. We will achieve our objectives some day, and this is in the interest of our various states and peoples. [end recording]

Senegal

Chirac Arrives, Learns of UN Peacekeepers' Deaths

Comments at Dakar News Conference

LD2307112695 Paris France-2 Television Network
in French 1100 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It was on his arrival in Dakar late last night that Jacques Chirac learned about the death of the two French blue helmets. The president reacted to this dramatic event at a news conference just now in the Senegalese capital:

[Begin Chirac recording] I would like to say straight away that the instructions that were given were to reinforce our positions around Sarajevo with the Rapid Reaction Force and retaliate against Serb targets that we identified, in particular the Serb barracks, in case of an attack, as was done last night and will be done again in the most systematic manner.

The London conference made decisions. We know that they are not entirely what we had wished, but they exist now. They have to be implemented without [word indistinct] and weakness. A reinforcement of means has been undertaken. The UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] has just asked the Rapid Reaction Force to place itself in a position of intervention. I am happy that we have these action units today. The Serbs must understand that we will not allow either the survival of the Muslim population of Bosnia or the dignity of UNPROFOR and the allied forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be at stake. [end recording]

Meets With Mauritanian President Taya

LD2307235995 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
1900 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President of the republic, His Excellency Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya this morning in Dakar had a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac.

The president of the republic arrived in Dakar yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

At the entrance to the presidential palace, President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya was welcomed by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

Here is our correspondent in Dakar, Baba Sidi Abdalla:

The president of the republic was welcomed at the entrance to the Republican Palace in Dakar by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf; Prime Minister Habib Thiam; the minister of state at the presidency, Abdoulaye Wade; and a number of senior officials.

At the guest room in the same palace, the president of the republic was welcomed by French President Jacques Chirac and French minister delegate in charge of cooperation, Jacques Godfrain.

After minutes of exchange of greetings and picture taking the president of the republic and his French counterpart held a first round of talks in private which were later enlarged to include Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Jacques Godfrain, the French minister delegate in charge of cooperation.

The two presidents later held long talks in private. These talks were afterward joined by Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, our foreign minister, and Jacques Godfrain, the minister delegate in charge of cooperation, and Bennai Ould Ahmed Taleb, the director of the office of the president, and Michel Depeche, the director of the African desk at the French presidency.

The Mauritanian-French talks centered on bilateral relations and issues of the hour in the international arena and above all the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Niasse on Chirac's 'Inter-African Force'

LD2407163095 Paris Radio France International
in French 1230 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Now two opinions on the high profile tour of Africa by President Jacques Chirac. First of all, that of an African, Moustapha Niasse, Senegalese minister of state for foreign affairs and Senegalese abroad, who reacted with enthusiasm both to what was said, and also to the man's style — spontaneous and dynamic — although, as he told Diane Galliot, he was not really surprised:

[Begin recording] [Niasse] France has always encouraged us to move together, favoring joint efforts, and, believe me, the results are tremendous. In spite of the difficulties we are facing, which have to be seen in the light of the world economic situation that is undergoing a profound crisis, France has always been our states'

main support for economic and financial integration in Africa.

[Galliot] We could be entering another stage with the establishment of a west African, of an inter-African force, for the prevention of conflicts. I know this was raised during this visit. Was any progress made here?

[Niasse] Throughout the whole gestation period of the establishment of the prevention mechanism, of the management of conflict settlement — this effort was reflected at Cairo with the adoption of an OAU [Organization for African Unity] resolution to this effect — France has stood by our side. More recently still, France, along with other industrialized countries, was behind a step to make the African states realize that it was necessary to set up an inter-African force that will look after all the mechanisms for reacting to internal conflicts or to border conflicts between neighboring states. In this framework the idea expressed by President Jacques Chirac, I can assure you, is completely shared by His Excellency President Abdou Diouf. The idea that His Excellency President Jacques Chirac has just proposed is to set up a flexible rapid reaction army staff, with operational resources that can be mobilized almost immediately in the framework of units existing within the national armies, and that will be raised according to the needs and aims on hand. [end recording]

Another view comes from Jean-Pierre Biondi, former adviser to the successive Senegalese presidents, Senghor and Diouf. Assane Diop asked him if it would not have been reasonable to expect such a relatively young president as Jacques Chirac to be less faithful to the old Gaullist philosophy, and to be more pragmatic.

[Begin recording] [Biondi] I think that Jacques Chirac has purposely performed a clever balancing act between sentiment and realism. He wants to bring Franco-African relations more into line with current times, which is absolutely essential, but to do this without rupture or repudiation.

[Diop] The realism aspect perhaps is to get the African partners to realize that, as far as aid is concerned, they really do need to grit their teeth and go to the International Monetary Fund — something that was in fact established by Former Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, after the devaluation of the CFA franc.

[Niasse] Yes, I think that bilateral cooperation such as we have seen for several decades is going to become more and more uncertain in as far as France no longer has the means to maintain the same level of aid and cooperation as may have existed before.

I think there are three levels of cooperation now: The historic bilateral level, of course, which will continue;

the European level — but there, as you know, some European states, and not the least important ones, are dragging their feet, which is why Jacques Chirac delivered a very tough speech at the last European summit, to encourage the Fifteen as a whole not to abandon their aid to the African continent; and then of course, and I think it is more and more important, multilateral cooperation such as implemented by the IMF. I think that is the new face of cooperation with the African continent, and I think that is Chirac's message, too. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Congo's Lissouba Comments on Talks

AB2407092595 *Brazzaville Radio Nationale
Congolaise Network in French 0700 GMT 24 Jul 95*

[FBIS Summary] "President Pascal Lissouba returned to Brazzaville yesterday from Libreville, where he attended the subregional mini-summit of the central African states heads of state with French President Jacques Chirac." "President Lissouba took this opportunity to hold talks with President Chirac on the cooperation between France and Congo."

Details with President Lissouba talking to correspondent Antoine Guengo:

[Begin Lissouba recording] "First of all, my impression was that President Chirac was very relaxed." President Jacques Chirac is a leader. We held talks with him and he asked us what we were expecting from the French-African cooperation and "what I wish to receive from France as far as France and Congo relations are concerned." To develop all the points of cooperation would have taken hours and we just had a few minutes. "We told him what we thought and I think it was a very cordial meeting. We brought one or two innovations on what we believe cooperation should be." "Our relations should be based on our own objectives. We have some constraints, various problems that we have already singled out." This was very easy for us. We just received representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. "Therefore our problems are well defined now. The main thing, as far I am concerned, is a question of mentality, of attitude." The key word is training, a training I called training based on example. This means technical assistance, partnership, and sponsorship. As for our debts, "this is a powerful obstacle to our development. We agreed not to increase these debts after talks with the World Bank and the IMF." We believe this to be a good idea and we are able to develop our country without further debt. We had already discussed this policy with members of the government. We will later inform our people for them to understand the situation. [end recording]

Niger's Amadou on Chirac Advice on Dispute

LD2407104695 *Paris Radio France International
in French 0630 GMT 24 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Another issue discussed in Dakar is the dispute between the Niger head of state and his prime minister. Chirac had talks with President Mahamane Ousmane in Yamoussoukro. Yesterday in Dakar the surprise guest was the Niger Prime Minister Hama Amadou. Christophe Boisbouvier met him after his talks with Chirac:

[Begin recording] [Amadou] Having experienced a close relationship [with Mitterrand in 1986-1988] as I am experiencing now, he [Chirac] spoke to me about his experience and gave very useful advice.

[Boisbouvier] President Mahamane Ousmane told me two days ago that in order to solve the crisis you will have to renounce the sacking of directors of companies?

[Amadou] You know, this kind of position is in my opinion very exaggerated. We are capable of finding a solution likely to pull Niger out of this crisis through contacts and talks between the various officials of our institutions. [end recording]

Amadou also added that he will ask for a meeting with the head of state this week to try to sort out their differences.

Commentaries, Editorials

Chirac Criticizes U.S. Africa Policy

BR2407150595 *Paris LES ECHOS in French
24 Jul 95 p 5*

[Report by Stephane Dupont: "Jacques Chirac Criticizes U.S. Government's Selfish African Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] During his first visit to sub-Saharan Africa over the past three days the French president has criticized Washington's selfish attitude, accusing it of abandoning Africa to its fate and of trying to undermine French influence south of the Sahara. In a particularly virulent speech to the French community in Yamoussoukro, the president condemned the United States which "constantly harks on about great ideals and yet lets poverty go unchecked in this part of the world." He stressed: "The first human right is the right to eat and to be able to live."

Cooperation Minister Jacques Godfrain stressed on a number of occasions: "You cannot on the one hand look to lead the world and on the other hand drastically reduce your development aid, as the United States is currently doing." This denunciation was a chance for Jacques Chirac to indirectly remind certain heads of

state who are sometimes tempted by U.S. overtures, especially where oil production is concerned, that "the French are the true friends of Africa" and that they should expect no good to come from over the Atlantic. On several occasions in private, the French president criticized the U.S. attempts to reduce the French influence on the continent, in particular through the international financial institutions. He said that Washington would do its utmost to reduce the influence of Paris in French-speaking Africa via the Bretton Woods institutions and soon through the African Development Bank. [passage omitted]

Chirac Discusses Tour, 'African Progress'

AB2407104195 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0730 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] French President Jacques Chirac ended his African tour yesterday. The French president left Senegal yesterday evening, ending the fourth and last stage of the French head of state's tour which took him to Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, and Senegal.

Jacques Chirac expressed satisfaction with his tour, saying that 20 years hence, Africa will give Africans the means of developing their own continent. Africa is developing faster than people think, the French president stated before his departure for Paris. Jacques Chirac denounced Afro-pessimism and expressed optimism about Africa's future. The French head of state's statement was recorded by Mohamed Issoufou:

[Begin Chirac recording] Once again, I have found — I already knew this — Africa making progress in the real sense of the word. Africa is making some progress based on three realities. First, the constant improvement of the management skills of the states as can be seen in their relations with the international financial institutions. Second, progress toward the creation of law-abiding states, which is characteristic of the development of all the African countries, and very often they deserve credit for that. We must commend this performance and refrain from giving lessons that they do not need. Third, progress toward internal organization. One can notice some progress, especially in west Africa and South Africa. This progress will be generalized to attain a state of security that will enable the OAU to make its first steps toward preventive diplomacy. Such a policy can help in avoiding crises because there are, of course, crises in certain parts of Africa — and this is a legitimate human condition. Alas, there are potential hotbeds of crisis in Africa like in every part of the world. [end recording]

Editorial Views Chirac's Message of Solidarity

AB2407202595 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN
in French 24 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial by Jean-Baptiste Akrou: "Lessons of a Visit: Prestige Enhanced;"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Jacques Chirac returned to Paris on 23 July after visiting Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, and Senegal. What lessons can Ivoirians draw from the visit made to their country by the fifth president of the fifth French Republic?

To really assess the importance of this visit, one should bear in mind a number of facts and gestures likely to clarify things. Concerning the last leg of Chirac's tour, President Alpha Konare of Mali refused to go to Dakar because he was appalled by the fact that his country was not among those to be visited by the French leader. According to the international media, his anger was in reaction to the hierarchy created in the relations between France and African French-speaking countries.

By choosing Yamoussoukro as a crossroad to bring together Presidents Eyadema of Togo, Soglo of Benin, Ousmane of Niger, Compaore of Burkina Faso, and Bedie of Cote d'Ivoire, President Chirac paid a glowing tribute of friendship and loyalty to the memory of President Houphouet-Boigny who was his great adviser on African and French affairs. By doing so, he also demonstrated his loyalty to French-speaking Africa, which was marginalized at a certain period through a different form of cooperation.

Furthermore, by this choice, he clearly demonstrated his loyalty to Cote d'Ivoire's great objective of integration and grouping illustrated by the creation of the Entente Council many years ago, and the Economic Community of West African States more recently, even though President Bedie assumed power after his other counterparts.

Cote d'Ivoire is lucky enough to be a country that is taken into consideration. Ivoirians should always bear this in mind, and refuse to practice democracy as if it were a **dancing party of people dressed in black inside a dark hall**, a party at which no one is recognized, and where all the participants trample on one another's toes.

Although it was a visit made at almost a running pace — President Chirac did not sleep in Gabon; he arrived in Senegal in the evening of 22 July, and left the following morning — here, the French leader had one lunch, one dinner, met French nationals living in Cote d'Ivoire, visited farms... In view of that, Ivoirians should be proud of their country and their leaders who were able to

bestow honor, respect, prestige, and glory upon their country.

Why did President Chirac decide to visit a coffee and cocoa farm? With President Houphouet-Boigny, he had already inspected agricultural projects. During his visit to Doyaokro in the afternoon of 21 July, he was accompanied by the 80 French journalists covering his visit. They discovered what life is like on a farm, the constraints facing farmers, the poor sanitary conditions in which the women and children live, and the difficult farming works.

Through the media, French President Chirac wants to make European opinion aware of its duty of solidarity toward Africa at a time when disengagement is rather noted. According to him, for moral, political, and

economic reasons, industrialized countries have to help Africa to develop. Still in his opinion, the West **cannot claim to defend human rights, democracy — which implies equal rights and chances — and let hundreds of millions of men, women, and children drift off toward increasing misery.** He knows that if the conditions necessary for development are not put in place in Africa, people will continue to migrate massively toward the countries considered as rich. That is why he fought for the adoption of the eighth phase of the European Development Fund assistance program.

It is, therefore, this message of solidarity with Africa in general, and of loyalty to his long-standing friends in particular that President Chirac came to convey to his counterparts he visited.

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